



observer

Issue 6

• Volume 74

• Nov. 20, 2008

Pumas Pounce on Bus for a Chance at a Wii

By Eileen Mills-Groninger
Guest Writer

On November 14, the Puma Bus was parked outside of the Core building, waiting for the 25 students gathered there. These students were very prepared for this event. Many were listening to music, others were singing it (obnoxiously loud, I might add), while still others brought their laptops to watch movies. They were not going to get in the bus, however; they were just going to touch it.

These brave students were competing in the cold, wet weather for a chance to win a Wii and Wii Fit by Nintendo. It was

a fierce competition full of goals and emotion as everyone tried their hand (literally) to win this fantastic prize.

Initially, 25 students gathered around the bus. The rules were to keep one hand visible at all times on the Puma Bus. Only one emergency break was allowed, otherwise bathroom breaks were scheduled throughout the night. A fire was kept burning in a trash can off to one side of the bus where competitors could warm up for a little bit after a challenge, and the game area was set up right in front of the bus, with cases of water at the ready.

There were mixed emotions

from the spectators and the contestants. Carla Herr, sophomore, was all confidence and echoed the sentiments of many contestants. "I'm going to win," she said with a little laugh and a grin.

Everyone was in good spirits in the beginning, even 4 hours into the competition there was a group of students singing at the top of their lungs, and sophomore Music Education Major Khristofer Dickover said it was a strategy to essentially annoy people so much that they would have to quit. Luckily, a majority of the students came prepared with sound-blocking headphones and their own music to drown out all of the other distractions.

As the night dragged on, people were knocked out. At 9:00, the first game began. The challenge was to chug 3 bottles of water, and Maggie Hall, Junior English Major, was the winner.

"Winning the water chugging contest actually helped me a lot because I got a bathroom break, but it also made me kind of sick because all I had in my system was 3 bottles of water." Maggie was all smiles after her victory, but during the water chugging challenge, several people dropped out of the contest.

Sophomore Criminal Justice Major Sarah Kay said that if she didn't win the first challenge, she was going to quit, and true to her word, she left the competition and became a runner for the rest of

the competitors. She and several other students went on a food run to McDonald's and Family Express in order to get warm food and drinks for the remaining people.

As the hours passed and the temperature dropped, a few more people left the competition in order to stay warm and dry, bringing the number down to 16. The mood got very sleepy and quiet, especially after the number of people dropped again.

Friends were called in to bring laptops and movies, and one section of the bus got to watch *2 Fast 2 Furious* and the other section watched *Sweeney Todd*. It was a clever way to pass the time, and it definitely kept the spirits alive among all the competitors.

Friends and spectators wandered in and out throughout the entire game, and Sarah Wright, Junior Music Education Major was in awe of the whole event. "I am just so impressed with the tenacity of these individuals. I could definitely not do this."

Freshman English Major Morgan Myers was equally impressed, saying "You have to love a person who is willing to touch a bus in the middle of a campus for a Wii."

Not all the sentiments were completely positive however, and several on-lookers could not believe what they were witnessing. "I hope the person who wins really thinks it's worth

it in the end because I think they are crazy," stated Junior Art Education Major Katie Vanderkolk. It was a sentiment shared by many that night, and as the night continued to get colder and eventually rainy, more and more people began to feel the same way.

There was another contest at 3:00, and Roger Spitler, Bridget McDermott, and Carla Herr all won. The contest did knock out a few more contestants, and then it was down to the final four, Adam Willis, John Manning, Roger Spitler, and Carla Herr. The water chugging contest eventually beat Carla down, and Adam left later as well.

After all the others were eliminated and eyelids were drooping from a lack of sleep, it all came down to John and Roger, and they eventually came to an agreement. Roger really just wanted the Wii, so he made a deal with Jon. Jon could have the Wii Fit as well as twenty dollars if he agreed to call it a tie, and Roger would keep the Wii for himself. This bargain ended the Puma Bus competition around 8:15 in the morning, a stunning 14 hours after the start of the contest. It was a long, grueling 14 hours, but in the end we had two winners, two prizes, and a freshman walked away \$20 richer.



Students fight the cold and rainy weather for a chance at winning a Wii and Wii Fit.
(Photo courtesy of Eileen Mills-Groninger)

NaNoWriMo: National Novel Writing Month

By Morgan Myers
Staff Writer

National Novel Writing Month, conveniently known as NaNoWriMo, has been occurring every November for the last ten years. The program was started by freelance writer Chris Baty in 1999 with only 21 participants. This year, over 100,000 writers from over 80 countries will be writing furiously in an attempt to reach 50,000 words by 11:59 on November 30.

In 2007, over 100,000 people took part in the free NaNoWriMo competition, making it the largest writing competition in the world. And while the event stresses fun and creative exploration over publication, 24 NaNoWriMo novelists have had their novels published, including Sarah Gruen, whose New York Times #1 Best Seller, *Water for Elephants* began as a NaNoWriMo novel.

Around 18% of NaNoWriMo participants "win" every year by completing 50,000 words or more and validating their novels before midnight on November 30. However, no one receives any prizes, and no one at NaNoWriMo ever reads their manuscripts.

So why do NaNoWriMo? Find out from the founder, Chris Baty.

"The 50,000-word challenge has a wonderful way of opening up your imagination and unleashing creative potential like nothing else," says NaNoWriMo Director (and nine-time NaNoWriMo winner) Chris Baty.

"When you write for quantity instead of quality, you end up getting both. Also, it's a great excuse for not doing any dishes for a month."

Elizabeth Gray, junior English major, is in her second year of NaNoWriMo, and organized the college's first ever NaNoWriMo participation this year. "I'm just

trying to get people excited and get some people to join. I like to get myself involved. It's even better that I get on-campus writers involved and supporting each other."

Some of the genres being written in NaNoWriMo right now are real life, fantasy, short stories, ghost stories, what one author claimed as "emo," and a creative memorial to James Bond.

NaNoWriMo participants are meeting every Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Halleck South Lounge until the end of November. Entertainment is provided while authors work to meet quotas, parry one line zingers, and discuss their different plot lines.

If anyone is interested in finding out more about NaNoWriMo, the official group website is www.nanowrimo.com. No special talent is needed to become a novel writer. All that is needed is the will to try, the perseverance to keep writing, and the need to

share your story with the world. So pull out your pencils, or start stretching those typing fingers and

get ready to write. Remember, the pen is always mightier than the sword, and a lot more fun too!



(Photo courtesy of http://torontoist.com/attachments/toronto_prathna/2007_10_28nanowrimo.jpg)

• News

Puma Bus

Working Students

• Opinion

Taking Our Place Among The Saints

Why I Hate Politics

• Features

Christmas Movies

Book Reviews

• Sports

BCS Predictions

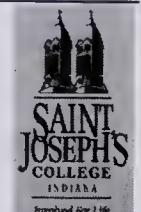
Brock Lesnar Wins UFC Championship

• Omega

Overheard

Karma and the Cosmos

Contents



Doing More Than Schoolwork at SJC

By Sabrina Butts

Staff Writer

One of the most important activities a student can do on campus is to study. It is the entire reason that students pay for tuition and live on campus. But in the midst of all the learning that is available on campus, there are those who are also occupied by another important activity. Whether it is for a little bit of extra cash on the side or to ensure their chances to get the education offered by the college, there is almost a subculture of students who work more than one job on campus, sometimes accumulating more hours than credits per week. Such is the life of the working student at Saint Joseph's College.

The most prevalent reason for all this work is the need for money to supplement college fund, though there are some who do it for the future or to immerse themselves into the school even more. Sandra Blum, a junior English major, works three jobs in the library, Writing Clinic, and the English Department to help pay for her studies abroad in the coming semester.

For sophomore Math major, Meagan Fairchild, working more hours than being in class ensures her abilities to go to class. "If I don't work, I can't go to school," said Fairchild. Financial situations at home make it difficult to make ends meet without working eighteen to twenty hours a week at her three jobs on campus.

Sophomore Art major, Elizabeth "Lisa" Suding has a similar situation. She also needs the extra hours due to the fact that she must buy expensive art supplies for her classes. "I have to pay for everything. Hub charges, book bills, things like that," Lisa Suding claims. Though she only works one job at the HUB, her work hours usually outnumber her thirteen credit hours.

There are also students who cram in three jobs or more on campus. Jennifer Ruff, a junior English major, holds four jobs, three of which are on campus, and another job off campus, tutoring a fifth grader.

This list, of course, does not include her long list of activities in the many clubs and organizations across campus. To explain why she willing takes on so many tasks, Ruff said, "I want to soak in everything I can so I can graduate here without any regrets that I didn't do something that I wanted."

Fairchild found a balance between social life and work by writing in assigned times into her schedule, quite literally. "Zach actually has written on his schedule 'Hang out with Meagan,'" Fairchild said with a little laugh. More seriously she adds, "I schedule time to because if I don't it won't happen."

Besides being hard on social schedules, working long hours



Senior Theater major David Santagelo hard at work in the College library. (Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Ruff)

effects eating schedules. Many students balancing work and classes miss meals. Fairchild admits that she does not get the chance to eat during the day. "I don't get lunch five days a week. I'm too busy," said Fairchild.

Suding also misses out on meals. When working from five in the evening to nine, or even after midnight, working for other students' suppers, she often has to wait longer to eat herself.

"Some nights I don't get to eat because, just as I'm about to put in my chicken strips or something, a huge crowd comes in and keep me moving," said Suding.

Hard as it is to balance social life and work, balancing work and school is even harder. With many students working more hours than they are in class, finding times to study can be difficult.

Blum found one way to cope with all her class work. She does hers all on the weekend. "I usually do an entire week's work on one weekend. That way, during the week, I can see people and do any research that I need to," she explained. But balancing it can be hard for her as well. "I have to run back and forth all day long. Friday is the only day I don't work, since I'm in class all day long."

Fairchild, on the other hand, is able to do her class work while she's working. "At my job at the copy center, I can do homework about half the time. When I'm a lab monitor, I can do it almost one hundred percent of the time."

Late nights are the norm, as is little sleep. Going to bed is considered a luxury. Both Jennifer Ruff and Meagan Fairchild admit to getting little sleep. Fairchild usually gets to sleep by one in the morning and is up again at quarter to eight, which makes the day rough for her. "I only get one hour increments off, and I want to nap, but I have to get homework done instead."

In the end, working while going to school is no easy thing. It is a balancing act that has school spinning in one hand, work in another, and around their necks, students must also attempt to spin a social life. Sometimes, these busy bees are so caught up in their schedules; they do not even have time to wonder how they manage it all. Jennifer Ruff said it best.

"In some weird way, I manage it. I don't know how, but I do."

The Laramie Project Ignites Discussion

By Maggie Hall

Guest Writer

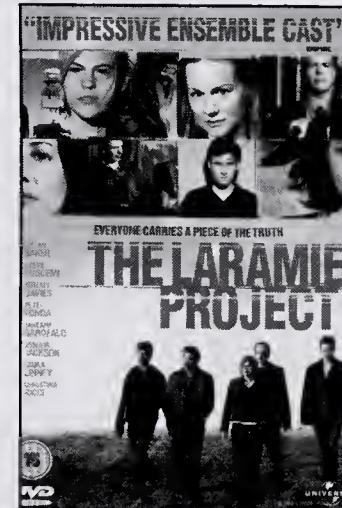
The students at Saint Joseph's College sit in the Shen auditorium talking to one another. It is almost 7:00 and many of the students are there to give support to Matthew Shepard. Matthew Shepard was a man who at the age of 21, had his life savagely taken from him. He was beaten so severely that when his attackers were finished, he didn't even look like a human. After the beating, the boys hanged Matthew up on a fence, just like a scarecrow.

The reason for this torture was because Matthew Shepard was gay. He was fine with the way he was, even though others did not agree. So a couple of boys from his town of Laramie, Wyoming decided to teach him a lesson. His lesson ended up being the loss of his life.

Ninety-five students showed up to the Laramie Project. The night started out with a Ninety-six minute movie about the attack and interviews with some of the adults who live there. Following the movie was a discussion with the students about what they thought about the movie, and about how this story made them feel.

"Our campus isn't as open as we think," stated Senior Criminal Justice major Liz Hall, "the Bible states 'Love thy neighbor,' but

there are still those who still hate." Not only is there sexual hatred in the world, but there is also racial and religious views that are hated as well. "Some people are set on their own ideas, to the point that nothing could change that," explains Freshman Vanessa Alexander. Junior Elementary Education major Sam Albano adds, "Look at the life of Christ! He reached out to those who were different, who were ignored, and hated. WE are called to do the same thing, and if we don't, then we are not Catholic."



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.bruckfilm.com/shopimages/products/thumbnails/thelaramie.jpg>)

Chamber Singers Fill the Chapel with Prayer and Song

By Elysse Hillyer

Staff Writer

On Friday night, November 14th, the Saint Joseph's College Chamber Singers gave a performance in the Chapel. The twelve members of the ensemble and conductor Dr. Samra filed in and walked to the back of the Chapel dressed in solemn and elegant black. The audience listened with quiet awe as the performance began with "O vos omnes," and quickly looked at the back of their programs to see the translation from the Latin into English for the average listener. The singers then moved to the front of the Chapel after the first song to begin the rest of the evening's entertainment.

The performance given for the night was "An Order for Compline," which was derived from the Divine Office of

Compline, which, according to the program given at the performance, is "the Office observed at the close of the day" in monasteries, beginning in the Fourth century. The Chamber

Singers sang several psalms and hymns, and offered prayers

through song.

The six young men and six young women blended their voices in perfect harmony to create a relaxing beauty that filled the air and moved the audience with their skillful intonation of both the Latin and the English songs.

When the last note of the night dissipated in the air of the Chapel, the audience sitting in the pews were shaken from their reverie and burst into applause as the performers retreated out of sight, only to return shortly to greet their eager fans. Freshman History major Mary Delach said "I really enjoyed the concert. The music was different, but I liked it. They are all really talented." The crowd leaving the Chapel couldn't help but wish they could stay in communion with such beautiful and majestic music perpetually.



The singers pose for pictures after their performance. (Photo courtesy of Elysse Hillyer)

Covenant House at SJC

By Francisco Gonzalez

Staff Writer

For Campus Ministry, this semester has been one of their busiest. And although there are less than three weeks left in the semester, they are still coming out to bring back some of their annual activities. On Thursday, November 20, the St. Joseph College Campus Ministry will be hosting the 14th annual candle light vigil for the Covenant House International. This vigil is for the homeless individuals of society in the United States, in particular. It was started at St. Joseph as a way to remind students about the amount of homeless youth that exist within society.

In addition to the college's involvement with Covenant House for fourteen years, St. Joseph was one of the only colleges in the country that held candle light vigils for Covenant House. Prior to that, Covenant House only held a few main vigils in cities like New York, and Detroit. But today St. Joseph College holds this vigil with several other colleges across the United States, as well as local churches and service organizations. This vigil, appropriately, falls on the National Hunger, and Homelessness Awareness week, which starts on the sixteenth and ends on the twenty second. This vigil is a public event for all people to share the awareness of not only the homeless youth, but all homeless individuals across the country and the world.

Covenant House was founded in 1972, by Rev. Bruce Ritter as a way to provide shelters for homeless youth in urban regions. Their main offices are in New York. They look after adolescents, within the United States office, and in the Latin American sector oversees, the care and shelter of younger children. And today it is the largest privately funded shelter for homeless youth. Today they reach over one million youth with food and shelter programs, as well as counseling, education, and vocational opportunities.

St. Joseph College has been participating with Covenant House, and plans on doing so in the future. Especially with the amount of support and participation they get from the Student body. Both Men's and Women's Soccer teams are in charge of a T-shirt drive for the event. And the coordinator for the Candlelight Vigil, on behalf of Campus Ministry, is Junior Adam Young. Brother Tim Hemm stated, "The Covenant House Candle light vigil fits well in to the mission of St. Joseph College, and is a good way in which we can learn more about Covenant house, and an awareness of the Homeless youth. The Candle Light Vigil will be held on 20, of November at 4: 30 PM at the St. Joseph Chapel."

Why I Hate Politics Taking Our Place Among the Saints

By Mike Koscielny
Editor-in-Chief

Well, the results are in. If you have been living under a rock or in a coma for the past two and a half weeks, here is the big news. Barack Hussein Obama will be the next president of the United States. The appropriate thing to do now is rally behind him in support of this country we all live in.

However, instead, people are silently taking bets on whether or not the man will survive his presidency.

Seriously?! Are we living



President Elect Barack Obama has quite a bit of work ahead of him if he is to turn this country in the right direction. He needs all of our support, irrelevant of whether we align ourselves with the right or the left. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.barackobama.com/photos>).

in the type of world where something so inappropriately anarchist will actually happen? I am genuinely uncomfortable with the thought of that happening. I don't understand why something like that would actually happen. Killing someone because you do not like them seems like a

very barbaric thing to do in this day and age. It concerned me to see Barack Obama speaking in Grant Park behind bulletproof glass.

At the risk of sounding cliché, can't we all just get along?

This is exactly why I hate politics. The two-party system has turned the US into red states and blue states when in fact we should all be a single purple nation; united—under God, Yahweh, Allah or the flying spaghetti monster if that's what you prefer.

The tape deck in my car has bit the dust, so now I am forced to enjoy the radio when I drive. Using the scan function on my radio—a perfect tool for the ADD at heart—is now my primary source of focus (other than the road, of course). Returning to the Joe after a fun morning with the Praxis II exam, I was scanning the channels that exist between here and Lafayette. I stopped the scanner because I heard whoever talking say "Barack Obama."

The speaker was ranting about how Barack will undoubtedly take away the Second Amendment once in office. I rolled my eyes. Apparently someone was not paying attention in government class when the system of checks and balances was covered.

Then, as I reach to press scan again, the speaker changes topics. He begins explaining that "radical leftists" have been infiltrating congress with their "extreme environmentalist beliefs." And furthermore, the first phase of their "takeover" is complete now that Obama has become the president. This speaker must be a soothsayer, because he then offered another fact as to what the future holds. He informed whoever was listening that, with

"all of these crazy environmental radicals" in office, a law will be passed making carbon dioxide considered lethal gas.

Well, I'm no chemistry major, but I'm pretty sure that carbon dioxide is lethal. If you breathe too much of it, you will die. But that's not the point; the point is that I almost vomited on my steering wheel in fervent disgust at the biased rhetoric used. Why is it necessary to describe people concerned about the environment "radical leftists"? Also, this question should be directed across the aisle as well.

It is equally unnecessary to call people who are passionate about their faith "right-wing crazies."

Both parties rely on these bastardizing profiles of who they believe are enemies, when in fact they are just people of differing opinions. Look at the campaigns McCain and Obama ran leading up to the election. Both, in part, used this ideology that on the political spectrum, wherever one ends up, it is "us versus them." And you don't want to be "them."

This state of conflict is counterproductive. Period. Middle ground must be reached and an intelligent compromise has to be reached. There is too much at stake. Everyone needs to support the president because he is the president.

I will admit, this is obviously easier said than done. I voted for the winner, so it's much easier for me now to say "let's be friends." However easy or difficult, it has to be done. I've been perplexed as to what specifically I can say that will reach out to both sides of the aisle and bring them together. A dear friend of mine said, "You have to put your trust in the majority."

I don't think it matters after the fourth of November who you voted for. To vote is to support the country and the democracy it stands for. However, after that date, to continue to support the country means to turn toward the center and come together behind the president elect. During the course of this election, people talked about being colorblind when they voted. That obviously means something specific and different, but it should also mean that they ignore who is red and who is blue, focusing on who is right for our country.

And I promise, irrelevant of how you feel about Barack Obama, his first state of the union address is not going to turn into the end of *Mission Impossible*. He isn't going to rip off a mask revealing a long grey beard and pull an invisibility cloak off of his dialysis machine. I promise.

By Sam Albano
Guest Columnist

During the month of November, we remember in a special way the saints and all those who have gone before us. For many, the saints have been a part of our lives from an early age.



Many of us have a favorite saint or a favorite few saints. Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Francis de Sales are a couple of my favorites. Saint Gaspar del Bufalo is a saint that we at SJC have a special connection to. Saint Gaspar was something of a heroic figure, refusing to take an oath of allegiance to Napoleon, serving the poor of Italy, and tirelessly preaching, despite his ill-health. Saint Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest who gave over his life for another man while imprisoned in Auschwitz in 1941. The list, of course, goes on and on of the many heroic men and women who lived exemplary lives in service of Christ.

For us who are Catholic, we are good at admiring and venerating saints. Sometimes, though, I think we forget about their more human side. Saint Jerome, for instance, had a reputation as a real curmudgeon. Saint Thomas doubted the Resurrection, and Saint Peter denied Jesus not once, but THREE times! Despite these things, these are held up as some of our greatest saints. If our image of saints, then, is one of perfection and absolute holiness, maybe it needs some reworking. From my best analysis, a saint is a sinner who never gives up.

Let us recall a central truth of our faith: the Communion of Saints. Remember that the

Communion of Saints is not limited to those who have been formally canonized by the Church. The Communion of Saints includes all of God's faithful in heaven, in purgatory, and on earth. That means that we are included among the saints!

As we take a look at our lives, though, we realize that none of us are perfect. We all have our downfalls and weaknesses, and certainly every one of us just messes up from time to time. We want to follow the example that Christ left for us, but sometimes we come up short. If we're called to be saints, then, what are we supposed to do? Like so many who have gone before us, our call, is to never give up—never to give up on ourselves and never to give up on God! Sure, we are sinners; we fail and fall and flounder probably more than we would like to. I am certain that was the experience even of those recognized saints we so honor and admire; we have that in common. What we must also seek to share with them is the desire to do the will of God and to overcome whatever our challenges. Instead of being angry with ourselves for our shortcomings and giving up, we must keep striving and keep looking to God for his grace and strength.

In the end, maybe the lives of the saints are not about some sort of Christian superheroes. To me, the stories of the saints are so powerful and moving because they were ordinary men and women who just kept going despite their weaknesses and obstacles. That is precisely what we are called to do: to keep striving and to keep trusting in the love of God no matter what stands in our way. Taking our place among the saints is the great challenge—and the great joy—of our lives.

Have your voice be heard!

Are there people or groups on campus that you think deserve to be recognized for their contributions to the campus community?

Are their issues in *The Observer* that need to be addressed?

Do you have any concerns with policies on campus?

Are there issues you think need to be discussed?

Tell us about it! The Student Forum is your way to speak out and have your voice be heard. Please send your letters to Mike Koscielny at mkn6466@saintjoe.edu attached as a Word document.

Observer Staff

● Editor-in-Chief
Mike Koscielny

● News Editor
Jennifer Ruff

● Opinion Editor
Mike Koscielny

● Features Editor
Danielle Marshall

● Sports Editor
David Spencer

● Omega Editor
Erika Rowshan

● Contributors

Sam Albano
Kenneth Badylak
Erica Brown
Sabrina Butts
Andrew Dudich
Ryan Farrar
James Fennessy
Francisco Gonzales
Maggie Hall
Kynten Hannon
Patricia Roeder
Sarah Kitterman
Eileen Mills-Groninger
Morgan Myers
Melissa Piskula
Dan Rogers

● Faculty Facilitator
Dr. Charles M. Kerlin

We, the newspaper staff of *The Observer*, while exercising our First Amendment rights to freedom of speech, promise to adhere to the highest journalistic standards. *The Observer* will not print articles, editorials, or other material that misquote or misrepresent members or organizations within the Saint Joseph's College community. While constantly striving to meet these goals, we can and will print retractions amending or remedying any problems brought to our attention.

The Christmas Spirit is Alive and Well in These Classic Movies from the Past Decades

By Melissa Piskula

Staff Writer

As this is the last issue before Christmas, I thought I should perhaps review a few Christmas classics.

The Grinch Who Stole Christmas

This Dr. Suess work turned cartoon (and let me stress that I certainly am not counting the Jim Carrey remake) was first seen in 1966 featuring Boris Karloff's deep, unashamed bass doing the narration.

The story is a simple one: the green meanie known as the Grinch (along with his little dog Max) is a hateful hermit living at the edges of a town called Whoville. He hates seeing their happiness every Christmas morning, and so he decides to take all of the things that he thinks represent Christmas. He dresses up like Santa Claus and proceeds to empty the town of anything remotely holiday related, from ornaments and trees to mistletoe and even the candy canes of sleeping children.

He rides off into the morning light with all the loot loaded on a sled and tiny little Max acting the part of a lone reindeer. As he slips and they are teetering on the

edge of a precipice, the residents of Whoville awake, and to the Grinch's surprise, they begin to celebrate the day despite the lack of any Christmas trimmings. This fills the Grinch with such spirit that his heart grows three sizes and he returns to give out the things he stole. It's a great holiday film, and the "You're a Mean One" song is filled with more hilarious analogies than you can count.

White Christmas

This classic film comes from 1954 and stars Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye, a couple of WWII compatriots turned performers. Their inevitable romantic counterparts are Rosemary Clooney and Vera-Ellen, a pair of performing sisters.

The film opens to the sisters singing a song called, well, "Sisters". The boys quickly find themselves falling for the sisters, but run into trouble with the club and end up reprising "Sisters" (a performance well worth the ticket price all by itself). Eventually, all four head to Vermont, and find themselves at a ski resort, unfortunately empty due to an unseasonable lack of snow.

If the set up weren't great enough already, it turns out that

ski resort is owned by the guys' former general. So what can be done to save this unfortunate failing lodge? Why a Broadway style show of course. Hijinks ensue, culminating a pair of couples and teary reunions all around. If that weren't enough, as the curtain goes down on the performance, it finally begins to snow. A true classic.

Elf

Lastly, a more modern movie, Elf is a 2003 film starring Will Ferrell as Buddy the Elf and Zooey Deschanel as his cynical love interest. Santa was delivering presents to the orphanage where Buddy was a baby, and Buddy snuck along with him to the North Pole. Unable to send the poor child back to live at the orphanage, he was raised by Papa Elf, as played by Bob Newhart. As he grew, he was much larger than the elves around him and eventually grew too big for the workshop.

Papa Elf finally broke it to Buddy that he was adopted, and that his real father, James Caan, lived in a far away place called "New York City". So buddy sets out with little else than the childlike naivety that one would be expected to have after being

raised by Christmas elves.

He finds his father in New York, but he is unsurprisingly put off by the 6'3 man dressed as an elf claiming to be his son. Genetic testing is done, and he is the father, so he reluctantly takes Buddy home to meet his wife and son.

Buddy ends up accidentally getting a job at a department store, where he meets Jovie and develops a crush. One thing leads to another, and eventually Buddy runs away on Christmas Eve, not wanting to be a burden any longer. Alone and dejected he wonders what to do with his life until Santa comes crashing down in his sled in the middle of Central Park. It seems that the sled runs on Christmas spirit, but there is just so little left that it can't fly anymore.

Seeing that Santa is real, James Caan and his son pump up a crowd and eventually all of New York City until the sled is able to fly again. Buddy gets the girl, and the happy family he always wanted, thanks to the spirit of Christmas. A wonderful tale, and proof that not all great holiday classics were made before we were born.

Top 25 Christmas Movies (Courtesy of Moviefone)

25. Polar Express (2004)
24. We're No Angels (1955)
23. The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)
22. Joyeux Noel (2006)
21. Gremlins (1984)
20. The Santa Clause (1994)
19. Bad Santa (2003)
18. The Dead (1987)
17. The Shop Around the Corner (1940)
16. Die Hard (1988)
15. Love Actually (2003)
14. The Bishop's Wife (1947)
13. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
12. Holiday Inn (1942)
11. A Christmas Carol (1951)
10. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
9. Babes in Toyland (1934)
8. Home Alone (1990)
7. Christmas in Connecticut (1942)
6. Elf (2003)
5. White Christmas (1954)
4. Scrooged (1988)
3. Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
2. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
1. A Christmas Story (1983)

Going Postal Keeps Up With Pratchett's Social Satire

By Erica Brown

Staff Writer

Terry Pratchett is most likely my favorite author (it really is hard to chose a favorite when you are a bibliophile like I am). I first picked him up in middle school, and I have been trying to lay my grubby hands on all of his works ever since. I love his play on words and his satire on modern life, and his take on life in general.

His Diskworld series is full of hilarious characters, such as the Grim Reaper, who is constantly goes through one mid-life (or mid-death in his case) crisis after another, or Captain Carrot of the City Watch who looks like a Viking, but thinks he is a dwarf (he was raised by them), to the Patrician who rules the city with an iron mind. The latest book that I have read by him, *Going Postal*, continues along the thread that Pratchett has already set, of relatable and funny characters, and shockingly relevant satire.

When Alfred Spangler woke up that morning, he fully expected to be dead by noon. He had resigned himself to be hanged until dead for swindling hundreds of people out of thousands of dollars. What Alfred did not expect was to wake up after his hanging in the Patrician's office with an offer of a job and his real identity, that of Mois von Lipwig. With only two choices, running the post office or a long fall into a pit of spiky objects, Mois decides to take on the crippled behemoth that is the Ankh-Morpork Postal Service. Struggling to get a building packed with letters who talk to him in working order, with

only a small band of the insane and elderly, Mois has his work cut out for him. Especially when the Grand Trunk, the corporation that runs the clacks (think telegraph's) decides that he is getting in the way and needs to be taken care of.

While at first glance *Going Postal* merely looks like a funny tale of a man who is put into a situation he can't possible win, but somehow is able to get though in the end, it is really a satire on the modern corporations and on thievery in the business world. The Grand Trunk, the villainous company in the tale, can be any corporation in our world today, although when Pratchett names the corporate headquarters Trunk Tower, you can probably guess which corporate head he is poking fun at. The Board of Directors is full of crooks who do not care about the everyday person, and have cut down both maintenance and personnel so they can pocket more money. The CEO of the company, Reacher Gilt, holds every characteristic that a CEO is stereotyped to have, and even some characteristics that are not (thrown in for good measure) and will do anything to squeeze money out of the company.

Though the book mainly focuses on the interplay between corporation and the individual, and how uncaring this interplay often feels, Pratchett also focuses on government programs, such as the postal service, and how outdated some of them have become. In the case of the postal service, it has not moved anything for almost fifty years, while the newer clacks system

moves information at the speed of light. Pratchett looks at how we go about modernizing and making relevant an antiquated and obsolete system without going bankrupt or falling pray to the privatization of governmental organizations.

Though I might have made the book sound dull and dry, believe me when I say it is the farthest thing from boring. With a fast-talking and ridiculous characters, intense action, and hilarious lines and situations, you will not be able to set the book down or stop laughing. On my pointless scale of rating books, I give this book a twelve out of ten, and I am sure other readers will feel the same.

Other Books by Terry Pratchett

The Dark Side of the Sun (1976)
Good Omens (1990)
The Carpet People (1971)
Diskworld Series



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.sfsite.com/gra/0512/goplj.jpg>)

The All-American Rejects Return with a New Album

By Danielle Marshall

Features Editor

I don't believe I really discovered who The All-American Rejects were until I came here for college despite the fact that their first two albums were released prior to my matriculation. I never even bought any CDs in high school, if you can believe that.

But when I became acquainted with "Swing, Swing" and "Dirty Little Secret" (my personal favorite) I fell in love with their sound and catchy lyrics (though I still never bought either Move Along or their self titled album). Today, as I listen through these two albums, I realize most of their songs sound pretty much the same, but I still can't help liking the songs.

It has now been over three years since the release of Move Along and now The All-American Rejects have released a new single for their upcoming album When the World Comes Down. Earlier this month their music

video for "Give You Hell" was released. Since watching this video only a few days prior to writing this article it has been stuck in my hand constantly.

With Tyson Ritter's vocals just as strong as ever and the beat is just as perky as ever, the video's storyline makes me laugh as well. Two neighbors (both played by Ritter), a rocker who sleeps all day and a well-kept white-collar man, fight over their conflicting lifestyles. Both drive each other mad with blaring of loud music and other methods of annoyance until finally they confront each other.

I'm not sure if it's the video or the song that leaves me in more anticipation for the release of When the World Comes Down. Perhaps it's just the fact that I haven't heard a new song from the band since my freshman year. Either way, keep your eyes open December 16th for The All-American Rejects' new album and check out "Give You Hell."

Band Members
Tyson Ritter
Nick Wheeler
Mike Kennerty
Chris Gaylor

Singles
Swing, Swing
The Last Song
My Paper Heart
Time Stands Still
Dirty Little Secret
Move Along
It Ends Tonight
Top of the World
Gives You Hell



(Photo courtesy of <http://www.allamericanrejects.com/photos/default.aspx?fid=11189>)

Family Gatherings and Gift Buying Ideas To Inspire You Before the Holidays Arrive

By Danielle Marshall
Features Editor

With the holidays and finals fast approaching I doubt many will actually take the time to pick up this last issue of our fine paper. I won't blame anyone who doesn't, though. I'm so busy myself with preparing to finish all my projects by the end of the semester that I barely have time to be the editor of this page. Nevertheless, I have to write something to entertain those of you who do have the time or catch the attention of those of you who don't.

As many of you realize, with Thanksgiving Break eminent (or passed if you pick this up after the break), the holidays are here. And with the holidays there often comes family gatherings and gift exchanges. For those of you with dysfunctional, yet amusing, families, this often entails many more embarrassing moments than any one person should be allowed to encounter. It becomes nearly impossible to wish "happy holidays" during these reunions of disturbing family values.

Not that everyone's family is dysfunctional, it's just more amusing to think that way. My family isn't all that dysfunctional or disturbing, just oddly open about everything most people would find inappropriate to speak about in front of parents. Anyone else who isn't used to this kind of talk or my family may consider this disturbing and dysfunctional. Although, if you count cousins in prison for drugs and uncles in jail for assault, then yeah, my extended family can be dysfunctional.

I enjoy my family gatherings, especially when I haven't been home since nearly the beginning of the school year. It happens to be enough insanity to satisfy my fill of them before I want to return to this institution. Most people would probably agree that family can only be handled to a certain point before you want to flee to gain some sanity again.

But of course there is always the gift giving that keeps people around the family. Sometimes family can give the best gifts to the college-aged kid. Who better to give those expensive electronic gifts like digital cameras and flashy iPods and MP3 players? But as college students, we aren't as

inclined to provide such nice gifts, though we heavily appreciate the ones we get.

I happen to be terrible at picking out gifts for my family. My mother is relatively easy: books that she will probably never read. My siblings are all married and have wives and husbands to buy them the things they really want. Most I can get them is some book or make something cheesy like the towel holders I made when I was probably in fifth grade. I'm pretty sure they all threw those away. I would have by now. My father is the hardest to shop for and about the only thing I think would be any use to get him would be DVDs.

And despite the fact that I know most of my friends pretty well, I have difficulties deciding what to buy them as well. Perhaps it's my own inclination to buy myself fun gadgets and funny items that prevents me from finding what they would like.

So, after browsing the web a bit for lists of good and bad gift ideas, I have compiled the list below of some ideas for people to buy for both their family and friends. Hopefully it will not only spark my own ability to buy a worthwhile gift for my estranged family and friends, but you, dear reader, as well.

I hope you have taken the time to read this before your holidays begin and learn to appreciate your family gatherings and decide on some gift ideas. If you haven't, I understand. Family is more important in itself than for the gift giving and entertainment they may provide.

Worst Gift Ideas

- Anything Used
- Gifts that Require Work
- Socks
- Homemade "Trinkets"
- Clothing
- Worthless Gadgets
- Expert Advice
- Artwork
- Framed Picture of Yourself

Better Gift Ideas

- Gift Cards
- Electronics
- Jewelry
- Books
- Movies
- Personalized Gifts

Obama-Rama: America Prepares for Her New President

By Andrew Dudich
Staff Writer

So whether you're cursing the thought of Obama Bin Laden or singing "Obama in the Highest," America has a new President set to enter the White House on January 20th. Mixed emotions have saturated the air after the news of Barack Obama's victory on Election Day as America now expectantly waits for the dawning of either a new era or error-uh, a George Bush word meaning the results could have been different if there was a recount.

Now that Barack Obama has won the election, certain facts have come to light regarding our new President. Obama's alleged quotation, "America—can we fix it? Yes we can!" revealed his alter-ego of Bob the Builder this past week in Washington. Psychoanalysts believe that Obama, presenting himself as a childhood television character, has branded his image as a comforting figure into the youth, a possible explanation of why he has won over the younger generations. However, the devastating turn in the economy has negatively impacted children's programming and recent sources report sightings of Obama in Chicago, panhandling on the street, crying out, "Change... change?"

In lieu of government wire-tapping, sources show that Obama supporters have created the Secret National Elite Eavesdroppers Kommittee (SNEEK) as America's newest defense against

terrorist plotting at home. This guild has chapters throughout the United States, especially in Alaska, where informants insist you can see Russia. SNEEK has adopted the technology of Star Trek by implementing Obama campaign pins, worn above the heart, as telecommunication devices which are used to relay the movements of America's top terrorist suspects, Paris Hilton and Lindsay Lohan.

In spite of his numerous promises to the American people to bring home troops and improve the economy of our beloved nation, one event has more citizens consumed with anxious anticipation than any other—Obama Drama: The Musical. This breath-taking, awe-inspiring, stupendously spectacular show

will keep you on the edge of your seat as you embark on a journey through a young man's life. Fawn over an angel's face as young Barack is born in Hawaii. Feel pride as a young man graduates from Harvard, and gasp as a congregation listens to Reverend Wright's frightful sermons. You'll be singing in the aisles with memorable lyrics such as, "Who Put the Bomp in the Bomp-O-Bomp-Obama? Who put the Rom in the Rom-Obama-Ding-Dong?"

Yes, the United States has entered into a new age with the election of our first black/white (grey?) President. For better or worse, until 4 years do we part, America has vowed to follow our new leader, President Barack Obama.



Thumbs up for Obama.

Facebook's Distraction is Both a Hinderance and a Source of Inspiration

By Jennifer Ruff
News Editor

The night was getting away from me and I still didn't have an idea for my article due the next day. I sat there staring at my blank word document but I had nothing. There was no new information out there for me. I had covered it all from celebrity and/or political scandals to society blunders. It was as if I had sucked the world dry of interesting material. After saying a few choice words at my computer screen and taking a walk around my one bedroom apartment, I decided to attempt to relax by visiting my little internet friend by the name of Facebook.

I started by glancing at my home page which was filled with site declared friends that had changed some small detail in their profile. Due to my status in the world of fame, I had quite an impressive list of so-called friends. That particular night I noticed that Paris has changed her relationship status yet again and Miss Lohan had once more altered her place of residence. Unfortunately, this particular information was too often used and quite frankly getting quite boring. I then visited my own profile noticing that nothing had changed. No one had taken the liberty to write on my wall which didn't really surprise me because I wasn't the most likable character

in my network. I took the small hit towards ego and then began to get further distracted with various applications available to me.

That's when it hit me, I had let myself become so involved with the lives of these people over my subscription to the site that it had begun to control me. Why was I so involved in this form of social stalking? Was it really my fault or was the site designed to do this very thing to the human brain? After pondering the idea for a little while, I came under the conclusion that perhaps this mind-warping site was provided by a power greater than we can even imagine. Perhaps the creators and masterminds were not exactly legal citizens of the planet Earth.

Think about it for a minute. If you had to design a way to hypnotize the youth and young at heart in the world, would there

be a better way to do it? With the construction of this site any higher power could ensure that there would be a strong decrease in intelligent citizens, for the love of Facebook has surely resulted in the failing of students around the world. It also has the ability to increase the creepy nature in people. They tend to lurk around the website yearning to discover some unknown and appealing fact about another person.

So now I ask you, if this is in fact an invasion from another world, Is there a way it can be stopped? Or are we too far absorbed in the attractions of the site to notice its brainwashing ability? Although I went to bed that night filled with feelings of dread toward today's society, I was thankful for one thing. I finally had my story.



A family gathers around the table for a nice holiday meal. (Photo courtesy of <http://www.gatherings.info/imgs/Holiday%20dinner.jpg>)



(Photo courtesy of <http://californiastudiesblog.files.wordpress.com/2008/06/facebook.jpg>)

Pumas Pulverize Central State In Final Game

By Dan Rogers
Staff Writer

The final game of the season had come on a cold and windy afternoon. The Pumas were anxious to win their last game of the year versus Central State University. The Marauders had the stats on their side, going a surprising 6-0-1 against the Pumas. But this was a different team, and many knew the Pumas could win their final game. The Pumas got off to a slow start, trailing 7-3 at the end of the first quarter, but that didn't last long. The Pumas went into halftime leading 10-7.

Just before the third quarter began, both sidelines were getting pumped up. So much, that the teams were almost taunting each other from opposite parts of the field. It looked like it would be an interesting second half.

The Pumas went on to dominate third and fourth quarter, eventually winning 30-7. Running backs Jashon Banks and Terrance Freeman were able to establish the run game. Banks rushed 14 times for 62 yards, and Freeman on 12 carries for 50 yards. Quarterback Nick Keim made the Marauder secondary look foolish, throwing for 222 yards 4 touchdowns. Keim was easily able to spread the ball around on such a windy day. Michael Cochran caught two touchdowns and had 43 yards receiving on the day. Jashon Banks caught 3 passes for 67

yards, including a 48 yard touchdown. Jake McFadden also scored on a wild play-when a pass was tipped several times, by both Pumas and Marauders. The ball eventually found the hands of McFadden in the endzone.

The Puma defense was spectacular, stopping the Marauders from scoring in the last three quarters. Senior Payne Schoen played an excellent game, leading the Puma defense with 8 tackles and an interception. Ronnell Tibbs, who seems to be a intercepting magnet, had a interception and 7 tackles on the day. Kevin Isom also had a pick against a struggling Marauder offense.

"We played in all facets of the game: special teams, offense, and defense", says Schoen. "After Central State's first drive, I know all the fans were worried and thought it was going to be a long day. But we all knew that wasn't our style of football and we knew we could beat this team. We buckled down and took care of business."

Defensive Back Deshon McClendon gave me his comments on the final game of the 2008 season. "In an emotional team meeting our coaches told us to play for our heroes. Every player's hero, whether alive or dead, gave each individual motivation to play every snap as hard as they could. Even though we ended the season 5-5 the coaches and players look forward to next year."

Five seniors saw their last game as a Puma. Payne Schoen, Lee Shaver, Michael Binder, Rob Perricone, and Addison Bowman all had a special part on this Puma football team.

Payne Schoen talks about his final experience as a Puma. "It was a memorable one, filled with a lot of emotion. We went out with a bang and hopefully next year's team can take this into the off season and use it to motivate and help them prepare for next year."

"For all the guys on the team, I love them and they are all family to me," said Schoen. "The pre-game ceremony was awesome. We appreciate Coach Deno for all the work she did and Father Tim for all the pics! It was a great way to end a four-year career. Saint Joe has been good to me and hopefully someday I can give back to it."

For those seniors, I wish you best of luck in the future. It has been great watching you guys play and lead this young team to a 5-5 record. I would just like to thank players such as Ronnell Tibbs, Deshon McClendon, Cameron Cullers, and of course, Payne Schoen, for your generous comments throughout this season.

Great season Pumas! Let all the players and staff know that you appreciated the effort they put onto the field if you seem them around campus. We'll see you next year as you play hard for Saint Joseph's!



Jon Kirkland (#23) celebrates in the endzone of the Pumas' win over Central State. Kirkland is a sophomore majoring in Political Science. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland, CPPS.)

2008 Season Statistics

	SJC	OPP
Points Per Game.....	30.5	29.7
Time Of Possession Per Game.....	32:25	29:45
3rd-Down Conversions.....	48/140	51/133
4th-Down Conversion.....	11/19	13/27
Sacks-Yards Lost.....	13-82	15-106
Touchdowns Scored.....	40	43
Field Goals-Attempts.....	9-10	4-5
Attendance.....	5240	8987

2008 Individual Leaders

PASSING: Mike Hladik-140/241 comp/att; 7 INTs; 58.1%; 1656 yds; 13 TDs
RUSHING: Jashon Banks-169 att, 843 yds; 4.7 yds/rush; 10 TDs; 80.1 yds/gm
RECEIVING: Jashon Banks-31 rec, 368 yds; 11.9 yds/rec; 3 TDs; 36.8 yds/gm
DEFENSE: Ronnell Tibbs-48 solo tackles, 16 assists; 5 INTs; 1 fumble

Fans Waiting For Another "Golden Age" In The NBA

By Patricia Roeder
Staff Writer

Well, the new NBA season has started. We should be overjoyed. Get your jerseys on, grab some soda, and watch a double-header on ABC! Sadly, I am no longer one of those enthusiasts. Let me explain.

Everyone at Saint Joseph's College has been given a great gift: they grew up during the "Golden Age" of basketball. This "Golden Age" consisted of terrific players. Karl Malone, Kevin Garnett, and Kobe Bryant all were

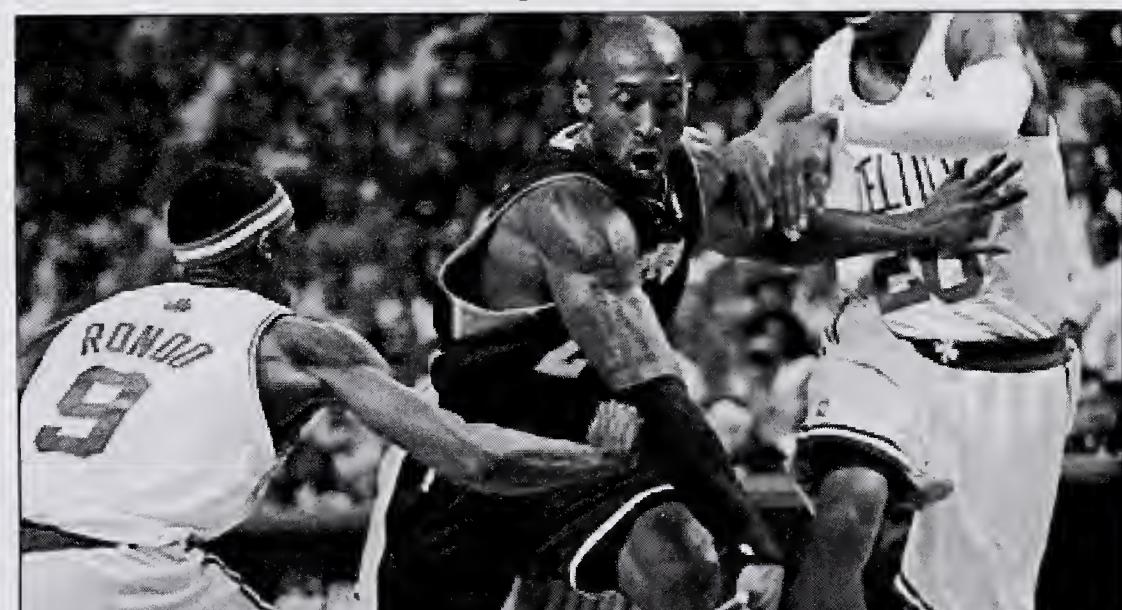
brand new and shocked the public with ridiculous amounts of talent and skill. This "Golden Age" was led by the greatest basketball player of all time.

Two words: Michael Jordan. "Air Jordan". "His Ainess". Sure, there were others I have not mentioned for the sake of space, but our generation grew up with the Chicago Bulls on our television screens.

This man was amazing. So much prowess, amazing hang time—he was just good. He was strong offensively and defensively. He could score 30 feet and three feet away from the hoop. I was watching YouTube videos the other day, sitting in awe. I watched one where he is shooting his second free throw, when Dikembe Mutumbo dares him to shoot with his eyes closed. Michael laughed, closed his eyes, and didn't open them until he heard the "swoosh".

My dad and I were Bulls fans, beyond a doubt. Every time they came on NBC and they played that anthem, my dad and I were there. I saw Michael win two championships with his Chicago squad. I grew up thinking this was great, but I took it for granted. I never knew anything else but Michael Jordan.

How times have changed. The Golden Age has come and gone. It lasted a few years after Michael finally retired. Scottie Pippen went to the Trailblazers, and John Stockton still served up assist after assist in Utah.



Kobe Bryant attempts to dribble through Rajon Rondo and Ray Allen of the Celtics in last year's NBA Finals. The Celtics beat Kobe and the Lakers four games to two in the best-of-seven series. The Boston Celtics have won 17 championships in their franchise history, the most in NBA history, while the Los Angeles Lakers have won the second-most with 14 titles. (Photo courtesy of http://search.espn.go.com/rajon-rondophoto08)

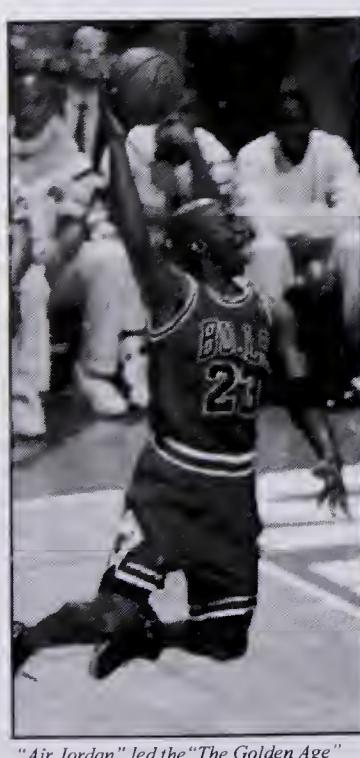
I think the decline began with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. I loved the Shaq and Kobe duo, as I watched both of them win two championships with the Lakers. But they fought constantly. Basketball became a one man show.

It became a game about one talented player and four onlookers versus five opponents.

Passing the ball became overrated. Basketball began to get gangster. Now I know Isaiah Thomas and Dennis Rodman did their share, but the entire NBA, save a few individuals, started to focus on themselves.

Fundamentals were thrown out the window as style and flair became the popular trend. Score as many points as possible on your own with style. It's not the basketball I knew and loved.

I recall a picture of Kobe surrounded by Celtics during last season's playoffs. They are pushing, scratching, tripping to get the loose ball. Get it, get it, now now! Our embarrassing Bronze medal in '04 Olympic basketball is proof enough of basketball's decline. We lost to Italy, for crying out loud. Italy! Home of pizza and Roman ruins. The pros need to focus on winning, not having the spotlight on themselves. The only reason we won in '08 was because we were embarrassed and didn't want to get spanked by the Chinese. The NBA's got talent, but way too much pride. That's why I hardly watch the NBA anymore. I miss someone focusing on how to give assists to the big guy in the key rather than taking four people on by themselves. I miss the fundamentals, the picks, the clean defense. Quit worrying if your hair is combed right. Play the game! I want to see a second "Golden Age" with talent, dedication, hard work, and class.



"Air Jordan" led the "Golden Age" of the NBA in the 90s. (Photo courtesy of http://images.smarter.com/michaeljordan)

Marching Towards The Bowl Championship Series

By James M. Fennessy

Staff Writer



SEC Predictions

At the beginning of the year many people in the country believed that Florida, or Georgia were the best teams in the SEC. There is another former powerhouse that has stepped up its game, and not only leads the SEC, but leads the country, and that is the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Are they a good team? Yes. As of now, do they deserve the first ranking in the country? Yes. Do I believe the Tide will survive the remainder of the SEC regular season, and SEC championship game?

No. I believe that the Florida Gators (Yes, Peebles, I am picking your Florida Gators) will finish out their regular season strong, and beat the Tide for the SEC Championship.

SEC Champion: Florida Gators

Big 12 Predictions

The Big 12 Conference is just as strong, if not stronger than the SEC this year. Texas is a great one-loss team, and so is Bob Stoops' Oklahoma Sooners.

The team that has surprised many people are the Red Raiders from Texas Tech. Many people have just now started to jump on the pirate ship, but



Graham Harrell leads the innovative offense of the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Can he lead them all the way to a BCS Championship? (Photo courtesy of http://www.doublenation.com/images/admin/texas_smu_football_Harrell.jpg)

I can honestly say I have been fascinated with their offense for years. Coach Mike Leach has had the same offensive scheme for years. Quarterbacks like Kliff Kingsbury, and B.J. Symons revolutionized the offense that QB Graham Harrell has embraced this year.

Harrell is the frontrunner to win the Heisman Trophy in New York at the end of the season, but I think the player who deserves it is Michael Crabtree. Crabtree will be one of the top three picks in the NFL draft next year. Crabtree has great hands, he is tough, and has that game-breaker quality that Big 12 football has not seen since Roy Williams from Texas.

The question is, can the Red Raiders beat OU, and then win the Big 12 Championship game?

I sure hope so, but Texas and Oklahoma wait in the wings to try and knock off the King of the Big 12 right now, yes—the Texas Tech Red Raiders!

Big 12 Champion: ?????

Very good question. Texas Tech is tired of being the underdog, but if Oklahoma or Texas can knock off the Red Raiders, they can sneak into the BCS Championship game. I think the Big 12 is the strongest conference in the country. I am going to pick Tech to go to the National Championship.

BCS Championship Prediction
Texas Tech Red Raiders
vs.
Florida Gators
Winner: Texas Tech

Brock Lesnar Wins The UFC Championship

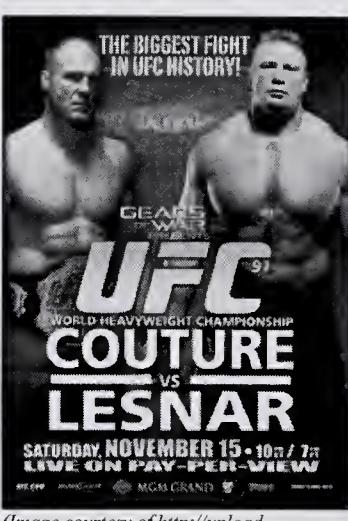
By Ryan Farrar

Guest Writer

On Saturday night, November 15th, my expectations for Brock Lesnar became reality. I will admit with little shame that I have been an on again/off again fan of pro wrestling my entire life. And yes, I'm aware that it is what you call "fake" (I prefer to call it pre-determined, sometimes choreographed... either way the pain they feel is real); however, when Brock Lesnar came to WWE about 7 years ago, there was no doubt how real the 2000 NCAA Heavyweight Wrestling champion was.

Lesnar walked away from millions of dollars to continue as a WWE superstar to try and make a brief but respectable attempt at playing defensive tackle for the Minnesota Vikings before trying mixed martial arts. He has risen so rapidly that in only his fourth professional fight he finds himself fighting for the premier organization, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), in its pay-per-view main event for the heavyweight championship against the most legendary champion in the sport's young history: Randy Couture.

Couture is equal parts Rocky Balboa and Evander Holyfield. He has been taking on younger and larger men for most of his career. In his forties he has defeated top-tier fighters such as



(Image courtesy of http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/d/dd/UFC_91.jpg)

Chuck Liddell, Tito Ortiz, and the 6'8 monster Tim Sylvia. People wrote him off before all of those fights, but "the natural" prevailed. Now the five-time champion finds himself defending the title once more at 45 years of age against the one of the most impressive physical specimens to ever compete in the sport.

My biggest fear as a fan watching this sport was that it would end in an abrupt disappointing manner, as many hyped fights do (Ortiz vs. Shamrock, anyone?). To my delight, the fight did not disappoint. In the first round Lesnar used his size and strength to work Couture, who really held his own but ultimately lost the round which I scored 10-9 for

Lesnar (so did all three judges). In the second round it looked like the momentum had swung Couture's way when a punch opened up a cut above Lesnar's right eye (a particularly threatening mid-fight injury due to vision impairment). However, the cut actually signified the end for Couture. Lesnar later admitted getting angry at not being the one to "draw first blood", and he began to bring the fight to Couture more aggressively. Couture attempted to duck a hard right hand which caught him behind his left ear and dropped him. Lesnar then pounced and started dropping hammer fists until referee Mario Yamasaki mercifully stopped the fight at 3:07 of the second round, declaring Brock Lesnar the new UFC heavyweight champion by TKO (technical knock out).

If you've never watched MMA, you are truly missing out on the next great sport. I find it to be far more interesting, exciting, and entertaining than boxing. While some consider the sport a human version of dog fighting, it is actually far less brutal than boxing. Think about it: would it do more damage to get choked out or punched in the head 200 times? MMA is more real, exciting, and diverse than boxing; while being less destructive to the health of the combatants. If you think you might just go ahead and check it out now, it's not a bad time to get on the bandwagon. Fight on!

Puma Tennis Profile: Anisha Gohil

By David Spencer

Sports Editor



Favorite food to eat at home?

Bhinda nu shak, Its an Indian dish my mom makes using okra.

What would you change about Rensselaer if you could?

We need a Steak 'n' Shake.

How long have you been playing tennis?

Quite a while; I started taking the game seriously when I was 12.

What is one thing that most people don't know about you?

I think iliac crests are sexy.

(Editor's note: The iliac crest is the top part of the pelvic bone that protrudes in the front of the lower torso, i.e. the hip bone)

What is your favorite thing to read?

The Forsyte Saga

Who is your biggest role model or influence in life?

Roger Federer

Who is your favorite professor?

Father Stang and Dr. Coy

How often do you visit home?

Not enough

What is your favorite movie?

Too many to choose a favorite, but if you want to know my favorite TV show is *Jon and Kate Plus 8*. I have a slight obsession with their adorable son Aaden

What is running through your head right before an opponent serves to you?

Trying to predict where they will serve the ball.

Anisha Gohil is a Biology-Chemistry major from Kokomo, IN. She keeps a student blog on the SJC website at <http://www.saintjoe.edu/blogs/agn6402/>. (Photo by SJC Sports Information)

What is your greatest athletic accomplishment?

Last year when our team beat USI, since they were better than us if you looked at the statistics, and we needed to beat them if we wanted a chance at going to conference.

What is (or will he) your greatest academic accomplishment?

Graduating from medical school.

What class are you looking forward to the most next semester?

Human medical physiology

What class are you looking forward to the least?

Core classes

What would you do if you had a million dollars?

Take a group of friends and head to Australia!

Plans after graduation?

Right after graduation I want to run the mini-marathon in Indianapolis

Lady Pumas Finish With A Victory

By Kynten Hannon

Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team concluded their season with a 3-0 victory over Kentucky Wesleyan College on Saturday the eighth. The team narrowly missed their opportunity to compete in the GLVC Tournament.

The end of the season marks the end of several players' college volleyball careers. Seniors Marissa Wartenburg, Robyn Bozych, Joy Trendelman, Sarah Herbert, and Katie Corely concluded their senior season with a 14-16 record and a 7-11 record in the conference matches.

But for freshmen Katy Weiskittle, Daphne Fray, Erin Brocker, Paige Caldwell, Brittney Masscola, and Sharon Freud, new careers in Division II volleyball have just begun.

In the 2008 season, the team was averaging eleven kills per game, ten assists per game, and totaled one hundred and eighty-eight blocks. Two SJC players were able to leave this season with their names in record books.

Junior Sara Cramer and junior Lindsey House were named to the Great Lakes Valley Conference All-Conference Third Team, as well as setting some personal records. Cramer concluded the season with a record of 372 digs, 26 aces, and a team high of 286 kills for the season.

Cramer secured the ninth place in the school record book for career kills. She also became the thirteenth player in SJC history to surpass 1000 career digs. House took control of the third and fourth places in the school record books for digs in a single season. House also became the eleventh player in SJC history to surpass 1000 career digs.

After coming so close to earning a place in the Great Lakes Valley Conference, the team was left with a burning desire to redeem themselves by earning a place in the 2009 GLCV competition. With time, practice, and a pinch of luck, SJC will be the proud home of the Division II Women's Volleyball Conference Champions next year.

Karma and

the Cosmos

By Star Goddess Sophia

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)
You are full of energy but find it difficult to direct it into something productive. Perhaps you should try using it by helping the family out during the holidays. You might just get first dibs on the turkey because of it!

Taurus (Apr. 20-May. 19)
Since you will feel particularly domestic over the next few weeks you should try directing this towards making something excellent for Thanksgiving. Just attempt to not burn the house down in the process...

Gemini (May 20-June 20)
As the semester comes to a close you will begin feeling much lighter and happier! But be warned: although you may want to get started on the festivities early, do not forget to study for finals in a rush to get out of school.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)
Although you would much rather be lazy and do absolutely nothing during both upcoming breaks, you should consider doing a bit of extra work. Perhaps volunteering or working on an upcoming project would be a good thing to try.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)
You are feeling particularly self confident lately and this will not be changing anytime soon. Use that confidence to your best advantage and you might find that you have a very exciting holiday season!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)
Organization is absolutely key for you this holiday season as you have numerous plans already in place. Just attempt to not get too flustered during these events. Relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Libra (Sept. 22- Oct. 22)
This holiday season you seem to have the ability to see beauty in even the most simple of things. This will definitely help you to pick out some truly heartfelt presents for friends and family that all will most definitely enjoy!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
You need to let go of a grudge that you have been feeling as of late. Remember that the holidays are not a good time of year to be feeling dreary. Instead, try to see the good surrounding you during the holidays. This will definitely help you to re-kindle some old friendships.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)
Some odd situations may arise over break. Although they might stress you out to begin with, if you remain patient you might just find that these situations will actually lead to a very enjoyable break for you.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)
As the semester ends, you have a bunch of projects to complete. Although you may feel the urge to nap away much of both upcoming breaks, remember that holidays are not only meant for sleeping. Friends and family are important too.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)
Things will be going very well for you over the upcoming weeks! The plans that you have made will go through rather well for the most part and you might even find that a surprise or two will await you once you return home.

Pisces (Feb. 18-Mar. 20)
You are feeling a rush of positive emotions right now! This is an excellent emotion to have during the holidays and you might even feel motivated to help organize a fun event with friends or family members. Definitely do this!



Over heard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further!

Submit your anonymous comments to erm6109@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

I've got too much cushion for your pushin'.

Madeleine Albright, you are one foxy minx!

Tequila makes me hump things.

Shut up. Why don't you go save a whale?

You can snuggle my turkey if you want to...

Mr. Barber, would you mess with my part?

Why did he let that hang out? Did he think he was in an Arby's bathroom or something?

They've been smoking the wacky backy.

Can you do me a favor? Can you smell my hair?

Jesus had groupies, they were called the Apostles.

Fact of the Matter

The first non-human to win an Oscar was Mickey Mouse.

Pi has been calculated to over 2,260,321,363 digits.

Little more than half of the people living in the U.S. would rather fold than wad their toilet paper.

In downtown Lima, Peru, there is a large brass statue dedicated to Winnie-the-Pooh.

The number of births in India each year is greater than the entire population of Australia.

The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska.

Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey.

Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

Facts courtesy of: www.redbrick.dcu.ie/~me/facts.html

Words of Wisdom

"To read a book for the first time is to make the acquaintance of a new friend; to read it a second time is to meet an old one."

Selwyn Champion

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."

Mahatma Gandhi

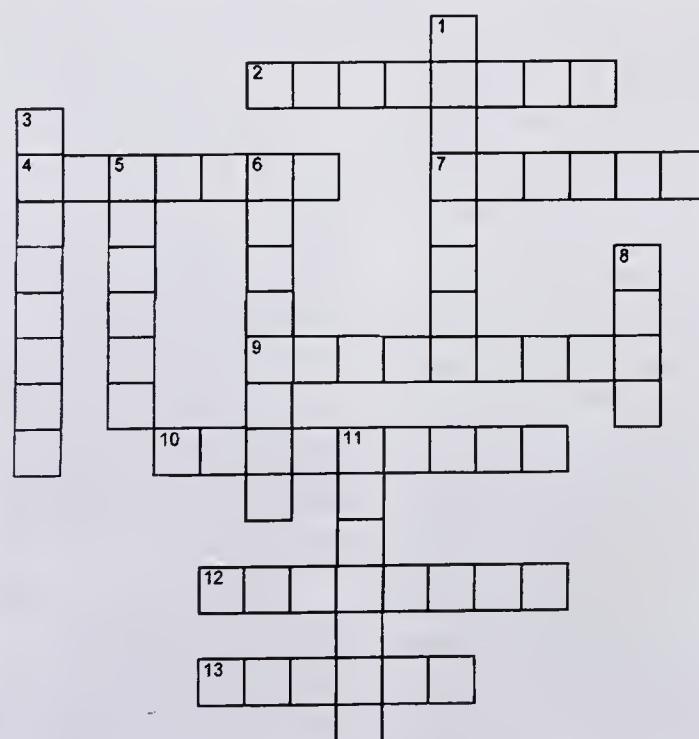
"So, let us not be blind to our differences - but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved."

John F. Kennedy

Thanksgiving Puzzle!

Puzzle Courtesy of: <http://sunniebunniezz.com/puzzles/thankcr.htm>

Thanksgiving
by Sunnie BunnieZZ



Across

2. Pilgrim Rock.
4. Shared feast with pilgrims.
7. Holiday bird.
9. Ship settlers came over on.
10. Bounties.
12. Holiday day of the week.
13. Thank you shortened.

Down

1. Sport enjoyed on this holiday.
3. Settlers came on the Mayflower.
5. Meal.
6. Thanksgiving month.
8. Vegetable at first Thanksgiving.
11. Give some of what you have.



Fountain Stone Theaters

Movies for November 20

(219) 866-2222

fountainstonetheaters.com

Bolt _____ (PG)

Fri: 4:10, 6:20, 7:50

Sat: 4:10, 6:20, 7:50

Sun: 4:10, 6:20

Mon-Thurs: 4:10, 6:20

High School Musical 3 (G)

Fri: 4:30, 6:30, 8:50

Sat: 4:30, 6:30, 8:50

Sun: 4:30, 6:30

Madagascar 2 (PG)

Fri: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

Sat: 5:00, 7:00, 9:00

Sun: 5:00, 7:00

Mon-Thurs: 5:00, 7:00

Quantum of Solace (PG-13)

Fri: 4:40, 6:40, 9:00

Sat: 4:40, 6:40, 9:00

Sun: 4:40, 6:40

Mon-Thurs: 4:40, 6:40

Role Models (R)

Fri: 4:50, 6:50, 8:50

Sat: 4:50, 6:50, 8:50

Sun: 4:50, 6:50

Mon-Thurs: 4:50, 6:50

Coming Soon!

Twilight

Four Christmases

The Ritz Cinema

Movies for November 20

(219) 866-0086

www.ritzcinema.net

Nick and Nora's Infinite... (PG-13)

Every night at 7:30